

IN THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please cancel claims 1-18 and 20-22 without prejudice or disclaimer and amend the remaining claims as set forth below:

1-18 (Canceled).

19. (Currently amended) A method of treating an endogenous condition selected from the group consisting of hyperlipidaemias, hypercholesterolaemias and hypertriglyceridaemias in a mammals mammal comprising the administration of ~~a fibrate formulation of any of claims 1, 9 or 17~~ an oral self-emulsifying pharmaceutical formulation of a fibrate with improved oral bioavailability, wherein said formulation consists essentially of a fibrate dissolved in at least one fibrate solubilizer, at least one surfactant and at least one stabilizer,

wherein said fibrate is selected from the group consisting of fenofibrate, derivative of fenofibrate and mixtures thereof,

wherein said at least one fibrate solubilizer is selected from the group consisting of an N-alkyl derivative of 2-pyrrolidone, monoethylene glycol monoethers, diethylene glycol monoethers, higher-ethylene glycol monoethers, polyethylene glycol monoethers, C₈₋₁₂ fatty acid mono- or diesters of propylene glycol, and combinations thereof;

wherein said at least one or more surfactant is selected from the group consisting of nonionic, anionic, cationic, and zwitterionic surfactants and combinations thereof;

wherein the fibrate to the fibrate solubilizer weight ratio is between about 1:1 and about 1:16,

and wherein said at least one stabilizer is present in an amount sufficient to prevent the crystal growth of the fibrate, wherein fibrate remains in solution in said formulation and no crystallization of fibrate is observed for at least 24 hours..

20-22. (Canceled)

23. (New) A method according to claim 19, wherein said at least one stabilizer is selected from the group consisting of fatty acids, fatty alcohols, alcohols, long chain fatty acid esters, long chain ethers, hydrophilic derivatives of fatty acids, polyvinylpyrrolidones, polyvinylethers, polyvinyl alcohols, hydrocarbons, hydrophobic polymers, and moisture-absorbing polymers.

24. (New) A method according to claim 19 wherein the weight ratio of the fibrate to the stabilizer is between about 50:1 to about 1:10.

25. (New) A method according to claim 19 wherein the amount of solubilizers is between about 20% to about 80% by weight of the formulation.

26. (New) A method according to claim 19 wherein said at least one fibrate solubilizer is selected from the group consisting of N-C₁₋₄ alkyl derivative of 2-pyrrolidone, monoethylene glycol monoethers, diethylene glycol monoethers, higher-ethylene glycol monoethers, polyethylene glycol monoethers, C₈₋₁₂ fatty acid mono- or diesters of propylene glycol, ~~or~~ and combinations thereof.

27. (New) A method according to claim 19 wherein said at least one surfactant is present in an amount that is between about 2% to about 25% by weight of the formulation.

28. (New) A method according to claim 19 wherein said stabilizer is present in an amount up to about 30% by weight of the formulation.

29. (New) A method according to claim 19 wherein the solubilizer is selected from the group consisting of N-C₁₋₄ alkyl derivatives of 2-pyrrolidones, monoethylene glycol monoethers, diethylene glycol monoethers, higher-ethylene glycol monoethers, polyethylene glycol monoethers, C₈₋₁₂ fatty acid mono- or diesters of propylene glycol, and combinations thereof.

30. (New) A method according to claim 29 wherein said solubilizer comprises:

(a) a first component selected from the group consisting of an N-C₁₋₄ alkyl derivative of 2-pyrrolidone, monoethylene glycol monoether, diethylene glycol monoether, other higher-ethylene glycol monoether, polyethylene glycol monoether, or combinations thereof; and

(b) a second component selected from the group consisting of one or more C₈₋₁₂ fatty acid mono- or diesters of propylene glycol; and

wherein the weight ratio of said first component and said second component is between about 100:1 to about 1:100.

31. (New) A method according to claim 29 wherein said solubilizer is a C₈₋₁₂ fatty acid monoester of propylene glycol, a C₈₋₁₂ fatty acid diester of propylene glycol, or combinations thereof.

32. (New) A method according to claim 19 wherein said solubilizer comprises an N-C₁₋₄ alkyl derivative of 2-pyrrolidone selected from the group consisting of N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone, N-ethyl-2-pyrrolidone, N-propyl-2-pyrrolidone, N-isopropyl-2-pyrrolidone, N-butyl-2-pyrrolidone, and N-(2-hydroxyethyl)-2-pyrrolidone and mixtures thereof.

33. (New) A method according to claim 32 wherein said solubilizer comprises N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone.

34. (New) A method according to claim 19, wherein said solubilizer comprises an ether selected from the group consisting of diethylene glycol monoethyl ether, diethylene glycol monobutyl ether, ethyleneglycol monoethyl ether, ethyleneglycol monobutyl ether, other higher-ethylene glycol monoethers, and polyethylene glycol monoethers.

35. (New) A method formulation according to claim 19 wherein said fibrate solubilizer comprises a combination of N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone and diethylene glycol monoethyl ether,

wherein the weight ratios of N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone to diethylene glycol monoethyl ether is between about 100:1 and about 1:100.

36. (New) A method according to claim 29 wherein said stabilizer selected from the group consisting of ethanol, oleic acid, caprylic acid, capric acid, polyvinylpyrrolidone, waxes, and combinations thereof.

37. (New) A method of treating a subject suffering from endogenous hyperlipidaemia, hypercholesterolaemia and/or hypertriglyceridaemia, comprising administering to the subject a self-emulsifying oral pharmaceutical formulation with improved bioavailability, wherein said formulation consists essentially of:

a therapeutically effective amount of fenofibrate or a fenofibrate derivative;

at least one surfactant;

one or more fibrate solubilizers selected from N-alkyl derivative of 2-pyrrolidone, monoethylene glycol monoethers, diethylene glycol monoethers, higher-ethylene glycol monoethers, polyethylene glycol monoethers, C₈₋₁₂ fatty acid mono- or diesters of propylene glycol, and combinations thereof; and

one or more stabilizers;

wherein the fibrate to solubilizer weight ratio is between about 1:1 and about 1:100 and the saturation factor is between about 1.05 and about 2.5 and the stabilizer is present in sufficient amounts to prevent crystal growth.

38. (New) A method according to claim 19, wherein said formulation has a C_{\max} that is at least 1.2 times that of Lipanthyl® or TriCor®, or has an $AUC_{0-\infty}$ that is at least 1.5 times that of Lipanthyl® or TriCor® when administered to mammals in the fasted state.

39. (New) A method according to claim 37, wherein said formulation has a C_{\max} that is at least 1.2 times that of Lipanthyl® or TriCor®, or has an $AUC_{0-\infty}$ that is at least 1.5 times that of Lipanthyl® or TriCor® when administered to mammals in the fasted state.

40. (New) A method of treating a subject suffering from endogenous hyperlipidaemia, hypercholesterolaemia and/or hypertriglyceridaemia, comprising administering to the subject a fibrate formulation, wherein said formulation consists essentially of a fibrate dissolved in at least one fibrate solubilizer, at least one surfactant and, optionally, at least one stabilizer,

wherein said at least one fibrate solubilizer is selected from the group consisting of N-alkyl derivative of 2-pyrrolidone, monoethylene glycol monoethers, diethylene glycol monoethers, higher-ethylene glycol monoethers, polyethylene glycol monoethers, C_{8-12} fatty acid mono- or diesters of propylene glycol, and combinations thereof;

wherein said at least one surfactant is selected from the group consisting of at least one ionic or non-ionic surfactant and combinations thereof; and

wherein the fibrate is between about 5 W/W % and about 40 W/W %, the fibrate solubilizer is between about 20 W/W % and about 80 W/W %; the surfactant is between about 2 W/W %, and about 25 W/W%; and the stabilizer is between 0 W/W % and 30 W/W %.

41. (New) A method according to claim 40,
wherein said at least one fibrate solubilizer is selected from the group consisting of N-alkyl derivative of 2-pyrrolidone, monoethylene glycol monoethers, diethylene glycol monoethers, higher-ethylene glycol monoethers, polyethylene glycol monoethers,, C₈₋₁₂ fatty acid mono- or diesters of propylene glycol, and combinations thereof;

and wherein the C_{max} is at least 1.2 times that of Lipanthyl® or TriCor® or the AUC_{0-∞} is at least 1.5 times that of Lipanthyl® or TriCor® when administered to mammals in the fasted state.

42. (New) The method according to claim 41, wherein the saturation factor is between about 1.05 and 2.5.